

What we will do is take the momentum of millions of acts of decency and convert that to the greater good. We've got a huge challenge against us—for us, a huge challenge, a huge hill to climb in America, winning the war on terror and changing the culture for the better. But guess what we're fixing to do? We're fixing to show the world the strength of America. We're fixing to overcome our obstacles. We're going to lead the world toward a more compassionate, more decent, more free tomorrow.

It is such an honor to be the President of such a great nation. And we're a great nation because we're a great people. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:56 p.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Governor Roy E. Barnes of Georgia and his wife, Marie; Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta; Shirley Kilgore, principal, Booker T. Washington High School; and Stephen Goldsmith, chair, board of directors, Corporation for National and Community Service.

Remarks Following Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany

January 31, 2002

President Bush. Well, we've had a substantial discussion with my friend the Chancellor of Germany, Gerhard Schroeder. I appreciate him coming over to say hello again. We spent a great deal of time talking about our mutual desire to rid the world of terror. And I'm so pleased with Germany's cooperation. They've provided troops in Afghanistan, troops that have performed really well, according to our military, and I want to congratulate you for that.

I also thanked the Chancellor for hosting the Bonn convention, which made a substantial stride toward an Afghanistan that will be able to survive after we have ridded it of the Taliban. I appreciate so very much the Chancellor's willingness to help Afghanistan help herself, in terms of training a police force. I told him we're in the process of setting up a plan to help Afghanistan develop her own military. So we're linked up well in

our mutual desires to leave the world more peaceful.

So, Mr. Chancellor, I'm so honored you're here. I want to welcome you.

Chancellor Schroeder. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I can only absolutely confirm what His Excellency, the President, has just said regarding our discussions, particularly focusing, obviously, on the fight against terrorism but also about the fight that has happened in Afghanistan and that the support that has been rendered by us, too.

We, as you all know, are very committed to the participation in the peace corps in Afghanistan, under the umbrella of the United Nations. Obviously, and as the President has just pointed out, we are very interested in committing ourselves to training police forces, law enforcement forces within Afghanistan because we find it crucially important that such intra-Afghanistan proper homegrown police forces can be built up in the process. And in the more long term, obviously, a military structure will be needed here, too.

I, obviously, wouldn't like to forget the fact that I have congratulated the President on the economic performance that the country has obviously been able to show. We do see some positive signs here; things are being fueled again, which obviously is not just positive and good for the U.S.—American economy but also for the global economy, too.

I'm very pleased, indeed, that obviously there are now some hopeful signs here because, obviously, as soon as the economy runs smoothly again here that is going to be good for the global economy and, therefore, good for Europe and certainly for Germany, too.

President Bush. Thank you, Gerhard.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

February 1, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome our close friend His Majesty, from the country